

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier. Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6, 9-10, 12-14, 16-18 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,105,923 (Hynes) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,641,823 (Bergman). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Neither Hynes nor Bergman disclose, suggest, or teach the claimed invention as recited in Claims 1-4, 6, 9-10, 12-14, 16-18 and 20-21.

Claims 1-4, and 6 recite:

a second coupling mechanism attached to the elongated member configured to removably couple the elongated member to a second imaging system.

Claims 9, 10, and 12-14 recite:

wherein the first end is configured to be coupled to a magnetic resonance imaging device and the second end is configured to be coupled to an X-ray imaging device.

Claim 16-18 and 20-21 recite:

a first end compatible with a first coupling arrangement on an imaging system and a second end compatible with a second coupling arrangement on a second imaging system.

The Examiner agrees with Applicants' last reply that Hynes does not disclose a second coupling mechanism. However, the Examiner states:

Bergman discloses a mobile transport table having coupling mechanism 32 attached to an elongated member configured to removably couple the elongated member to a magnetic resonance imaging system. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ a second coupling mechanism in order to attach the elongate member to a patient cradle of an MRI system.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Bergman only discloses an MRI system and one coupling mechanism. There is no mention or suggestion of a second coupling mechanism. Indeed, not only does Bergman not describe a "second coupling mechanism," but also Bergman fails to disclose or suggest "x-ray imaging device" (Claims 9, 10, and 12-13) or a "second imaging system" (Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 16-18 and 20).

The Examiner gives no suggestion or motivation to modify both Hynes and Bergman to have two coupling mechanisms for two imaging systems. Both Hynes and Bergman only show one coupling mechanism and one imaging system. There is no suggestion or motivation in either reference to change the structures described by Hynes and Bergman to have two coupling mechanisms.

Hynes and Bergman fail to disclose, suggest, or teach the claimed invention recited in Claims 1-4, 6, 9-10, 12-14, 16-18 and 20-21. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Hynes and Bergman in combination.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 6 of the Office Action, Claims 7 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hynes, in view of Bergman, and U.S. Patent No. 4,145,612 (Cooper). Applicants traverse the rejection. Hynes, Bergman and Cooper (alone or in combination) do not disclose, suggest, or teach the claimed invention as recited in Claims 7 and 11.

As discussed above, Hynes and Bergman fail to disclose, suggest, or teach the claimed invention as recited in claims 1 or 9. Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and claim 11 depends from claim 9. Cooper does not provide the missing teachings. Cooper only describes an elongated member comprised of Kevlar. As such, a rejection of claims 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Hynes, Bergman, and Cooper cannot properly be maintained. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 5 of the Office Action, claim 19 is allowed.

Also on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 5, 8, and 15 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. In light of the remarks above, Applicants do not believe that the claims from which claims 5, 8, and 15 depend are properly rejected. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to claims 5, 8, and 15.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

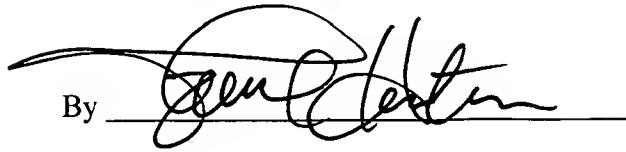
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2350.

Respectfully submitted,

Date FEB 11, 2007

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul S. Hunter", written over a horizontal line.

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